

Jeffrey Marcotte

Woodstock , CT

CT General Assembly Bill No. 830. An act prohibiting the use of certain outdoor wood-burning furnaces.

I oppose the passing Bill No. 830. Our family consists of my wife Julie, my son Justin, age 8, my daughter Jillian, age 6, and myself. We have an outdoor wood boiler that we purchased over five years ago. It has been a tremendous savings for us with regard to our heating bill. If we were to use our oil burner to heat our home our life would be greatly different. Because of our relatively easy access to very inexpensive wood, we are able to heat our home for a few hundred dollars per year. If we were to use our oil burner to heat our home, our "disposable income" would be greatly reduced. We would need to cut out activities that our children participate in such as the dance classes my daughter attends at The Putnam Dance Center. Jillian's lack of participation would also impact The Putnam Dance Center and its employees. I fear also our son Justin will not be able to participate in Little League Baseball, something he talks about every day. Our local economy will suffer also. The seven to ten times per month that our family is able to go out to eat will need to end. Again further hurting our local restaurants and their employees who depend on our patronage. I am also concerned that the summer program that our children attend at Northwood Childcare, and the baseball camp Justin attends will need to be eliminated. I fear that our support of local charity organizations such as TEEG and Daily Bread will end too. Our family may be the next ones looking to them for help, or someone for heating assistance. Our boiler was lawfully purchased, lawfully installed, and has been lawfully operated for well over five years with no complaints from any one that I am aware of. If we could afford to use an easier form of heat, I would gladly do so. Putting wood in at 10 P.M. in near zero weather is not fun to say the least. Cutting, splitting, hauling, and stacking the wood is a sacrifice we make for the other things we choose to do in life. In closing I would like to add that it is always a few bad apples the spoil the bunch. I strongly urge you to find a way to deal with the bad apples.